
Do the Personal and Philatelic Organization Perfins Need To Be Rated?

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In the last few years a census for A and another for B+ perfin types have been developed or are being developed. When Paul Mistretta prepared his checklist of U.S. perfins in 1999, he noted several changes in the ratings. Among others, two A's were reduced and three lower rated items were raised to A's. After the A census of 2000, there were further changes in the ratings: one C+ was raised to an A and nine A's were reduced. After the B+ census of this year, I am certain that there will be additional changes, making the new ratings more true to existing conditions.

There is an entire group of perfins (68) that are included in the 1998 U.S. perfins catalog without any rates. These are the personals, those of philatelic organizations, and a few odd, questionable types. Some of these personals are abundant, but others are on almost everyone's want list. I am wondering if it is time to rate these items? Perhaps a simple system of x,y,z, could be used to avoid confusion with the bulk of the commercial perfin types.

x= uncommon to rare 1-25 copies

y= common 26-100"

z= abundant 100+ "

I know that Floyd Walker was working on a personal perfin project created an exhibit of these types, and wrote articles aboutt them for the Bulletin. Whoever owns that collection now is in a good position to furnish information for the start of a rating project.

With a few exceptions, I believe that most philatelic organizations will keep their perfin devices. Personal machines generally change hands after the owner's death. It would be useful to learn when the devices were first used, if they are still in use, if they have been destroyed (or used as door stops), and who the present owner is. No doubt a census would reveal more about these unrated types.

It might be useful as a supplement to the U.S. catalog to list the first day usage of these perfin types even if a rating system is never developed. I have listed my first day covers of some of the personal and philatelic perfin types. Other collectors may wish to provide additional dates. Owners and locations are listed in the U.S. perfins catalog.

If you believe that these personals should be rated (or should not, let your feelings be known

TYPE	DESIGN	FIRST DAY OF USE
A215.5P	APS	April 30, 1977
C315.5P	CS : CS (se-tenant)	June 1999 (No precise date)
E13.95P	[HEART(EBER)]	November 21, 1979
E70.5P	EL/PEX	June 15, 1973
H126.5P	H.N	April 24, 1982
J3.5P	JAG	September 1, 1980
J27.5P	J+D	September 4, 1979
L130.5RP	[LP]	July 4, 1977
O70.5P	[O/SS]	January 19, 1980
P80.1P	PF	April 1, 1977
P80.2P	•P F	April 1, 1977
P80.3P	P F•	April 1, 1977
P80.4P	P•F	April 1, 1977
P80.5P	P F.	April 1, 1977
R94.7P	R.J.	June 30, 1975
W20.5P	[WA]L/KER	April 8, 1977
Des. 50P	lighthouse	November 10, 1978
Des. 60P	apple	December 6, 1985
Des. 61IP	anchor	March 26, 1995

Some personals appear to be company perfins and perhaps should be listed as such. Can anyone confirm if the original owners of E13.9P or J27.5P were in the stamp business and that their perfins deserve ratings with other commercial firms? Bob Murrin is a well-known stamp dealer and uses his

R.J on all business mailings Should this one be listed as a commercial?

The C315.5P creating device is owned by Chuck Spaulding [Editors note: See front page of this issue.]

[And a couple more from the Editor's collection:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>DESIGN</u>	<u>FIRST DAY OF USE</u>
H11.5P	Flag(H)	Sept. 5, 1966
Des. 33.5P	Star of David	Feb. 7, 1985
Des. 52P	Beaver	May 25, 1984]
